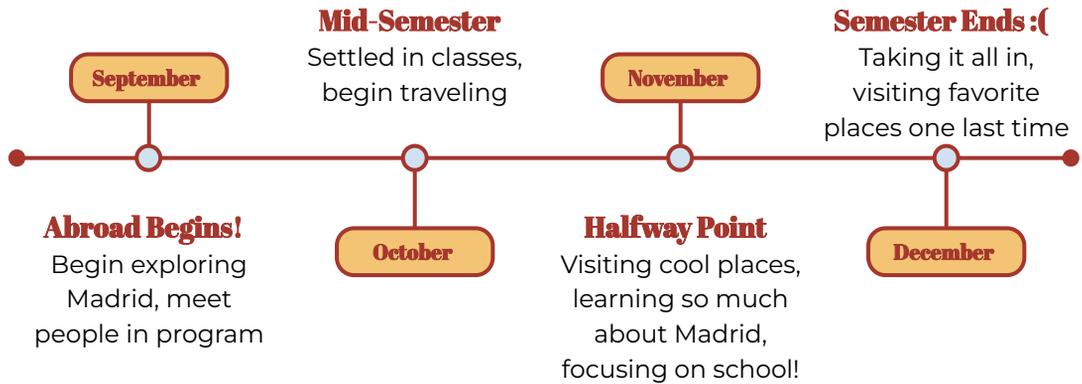


Ashley's **MADRID** Timeline

A journey throughout my abroad
experience!



Fall 2024 Study Abroad Timeline



September 5-12: First Week in Madrid!



Prior to coming to Madrid, I booked the group flight as a way to meet people in the program and also not deal with the hassle of booking a return flight as well. I luckily met some really great girls on the flight and as soon as we landed in Madrid we immediately got dinner. The rest of the week before classes started mainly consisted of visiting popular spots like Gran Via and also trying Honest Greens, a huge Spanish chain.

September 18-19: First Museum visits, El Retiro Park



While in Madrid I took History of Art 209 and Spanish 102. These two classes were filled with field trips throughout the semester and was such a good way of exploring and learning about the city. In the second week of school, for HOA, we visited the National Archaeological Museum. That same week, my spanish class did an activity walking around El Retiro Park! I knew i wanted to visit both of these places in my own time, but going as a class made the experience so much more fun and interesting.

September 20-22: First Trip!



Everyone in the Syracuse Madrid Program has a chance to go on a field trip to Barcelona! The Health and Sciences cohort as well as the discovery program students went on the same week and since we were all STEM majors, Alvaro, Andrea, and Matt took us to visit cancer research labs and medical museums in Barcelona! It was really invaluable to get a global perspective on healthcare and further our understanding of research around the world. After all the sciencey stuff we got to visit Casa Batllo and walk around the Gothic Quarter. Since Barcelona is in the eastern coast of Spain, it is very well known for Paella and we got the chance to try some and it was delicious.

October 4-12: Mallorca and Lisbon



*Check Speaker notes for context

Mallorca:

One of the best parts about studying abroad is the people that you meet. During the fall semester in the Syracuse Abroad Program, there are so many students from universities outside of Syracuse! For this trip, I went on it with girls that I met from Duke and Tulane that were in my program! It was so much fun and a really great ocean getaway. I have never seen water so blue in my life!

Lisbon:

Portugal is one of the most beautiful countries I've been to architecturally. I wish we had more time here, so that we could explore other cities like Porto, Lagos, and Madeira. If you like seafood, I highly recommend visiting Portugal and going to the Time Out Market and Miss Can for the best mussels, sardines, and tuna. Visiting here also made me really want to learn portuguese. Hearing all the locals speak and learning a few phrases was so cool.

Fall Break: Morocco



*Check speaker notes
for context



Morocco!!! By far the most memorable trip of the semester. I went with such a great group of people in the Syracuse Program and spent three days on a bus exploring different sites and cities in Morocco to then camping in the Sahara Desert. We visited iconic filming sites for movies and shows like Gladiator, Game of Thrones, and Outer Banks. The locals were so kind, food was great, and the tea was just as good as people described.

October 25-26: Royal Palace & El Clasico Game!



My first time in a royal palace! This MadWorld Event was so cool. There are over 3,400 rooms in this palace and we got to tour some of the most iconic ones. Learning about the history of the royal family and what they're doing now was very interesting.



One of the biggest games of the year is the El Clasico Game between Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. I know a couple people who actually went to the game in the Santiago Bernabeu, however me and a couple of friends went to a restaurant and watched it there. We got to talk to locals about the game and see firsthand how passionate they are about Real Madrid.



November 8-10: Amsterdam



Amsterdam was one of the coolest places I went to during the semester. The city truly has so much culture, history, and traditions. I would recommend going to the Rijksmuseum (but get your tickets in advance), a canal tour, Van Gogh Museum, and the markets! I can see myself coming back here again in the future, hopefully when the weather is nicer and the tulips are bloomed!

November 12-23: Real Madrid Stadium, Atletico Madrid Game!



*Check speaker notes for context

This was one of the coolest MadWorld events of the semester! My friends and I made sure we were on the guidebook app at exactly 12:35pm so we could get tickets to tour the Real Madrid Stadium. It was my first time in the Santiago Bernabéu and we got to see all of the teams trophies, accolades, and even signed jerseys of iconic players like Zinedine Zidane, Jude Bellingham, Cristiano Ronaldo, etc. Highly recommend going on this MadWorld event if you are a sports fan! The week after, me and my friend actually ran into Connor Gallagher who plays for Atletico Madrid and the England National Team. He's the first professional athlete I've ever met! My dad is an England Fan, so I was very excited to send him that photo. The next day, we got to see him on the field at the Atletico Game. Futbol is a huge part of Spanish culture, so I would definitely recommend catching a game or two with some friends!

Thanksgiving: London



Before Thanksgiving, we had our last organic chemistry lab of the semester at SLU and also were preparing a lot for finals at IIE!



Over the weekend we went to London! Saw so many iconic landmarks like Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, and ate sooo much at Borough Market.



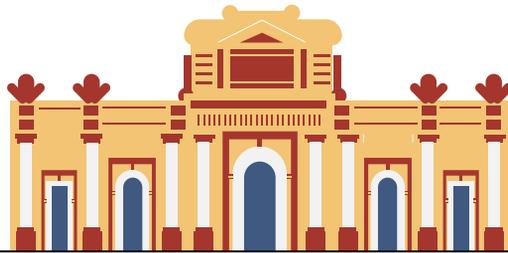
December: Last two weeks in Madrid



The last two weeks of the semester consisted of preparing for finals, visiting our favorite places for the last time and a farewell/birthday dinner with all of my friends! We had to make sure we saw the christmas lights on Gran Via one last time (left) and see the beautiful architecture in our neighborhood.

Final Thoughts:

I couldn't have asked for a better experience! I think this journey allowed me to grow as not only a student but as a person. Madrid is such a special, charming, and amazing place that will steal your heart. Being back on campus is great however I would be lying if I said I didn't think about Madrid and abroad every single day. My advice to someone embarking on this journey is to enjoy every single moment, go out of your comfort zone, and be open to everything!





Thank You!

Feel free to email me with any questions

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